

# Hunter Mill News

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Summer/Fall 2002

## Letter from Supervisor Hudgins

It has been an interesting and exciting six months since the publication of the last Hunter Mill News and our lives have changed in many ways since September 11. Fairfax County has been working with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on a Regional Emergency Coordination Plan. The goal of the plan is to “collaborate [regionally] in planning, communication, information sharing, and coordination activities before, during, or after a regional emergency.” The MWCOC Board of Directors, of which I am a member, approved the plan on April 12. The plan is available at: <http://www.mwcog.org/>.

The Board of Supervisors officially adopted the Fairfax County FY 2003 Budget at its regular meeting on April 29, 2002. Included in the adopted budget were a two-cent real estate tax reduction and a \$10,000 increase in the asset eligibility limit for elderly and disabled tax relief.

The FY 2003 Budget presented an interesting combination of challenges: 1) revenue was down from all sources except residential assessments, 2) the proposed school budget request was 5.1% higher than the guidelines which cap the annual increase at 7.07%, and 3) Fairfax County was faced with \$6 and \$46 million reductions in funding from the state for the county and the schools respectively. Note also that Fairfax County Government does not — cannot by state law — access income and that residential assessments make up 57% of general fund revenue.

In meeting with the community, I heard from many seniors on fixed incomes who are feeling the pinch of increased assessments. I felt that targeting relief to those identifiably in need was a more prudent strategy given the shortages of revenue and the amount needed to provide meaningful tax relief. I proposed raising the income and asset limits on senior and disability tax relief to the state maximum - \$62,000 a year for income and \$240,000 in assets, not including a home and up to an acre of land. Unfortunately, this proposal was not supported by other Board members.



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# KEY ISSUES IN HUNTER MILL DISTRICT

## Transportation Project Status

### Old Reston Avenue

On Tuesday, May 21, 2002, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors held a dedication ceremony for the completion of improvements to Old Reston Avenue in Reston.

In response to citizen concern on an earlier approval to widen Old Reston Avenue in 1999, Supervisor Hudgins worked with citizens to address their concerns to the county and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Old Reston Avenue is designated a Virginia Byway and preserving its historic and pedestrian friendly nature was a community concern.

The approved changes from the original plan presented in December 1999 include:

1. Changing the width of the roadway from 40 to 30 feet
2. Sidewalks on both sides of Old Reston Avenue
3. Brick-like crosswalks
4. A recommendation of a posted speed of 25 MPH
5. Lighting using the Reston demonstration light pole standard
6. Additional landscaping

“The cooperation of the county and VDOT to not only complete this difficult project, but to do so with such sensitivity to the nature of the area and to the commu-

nity’s wishes, is worthy of recognition,” noted Supervisor Hudgins at the time.

The funding for the improvements were made possible through proffer money from Sallie Mae.



Chairman Katherine K. Hanley, Supervisor Hudgins, and Virginia Senator Janet D. Howell (l. to r. below) attended the ceremony.

### Route 28

The Route 28 Corridor Improvement Project will transform the 14-mile highway that stretches between Route 7 and I-66 into a limited access freeway. Signalized intersections will be removed and replaced with 10 high-capacity interchanges. Two lanes will be added to the existing six-lane section, easing traffic flow and congestion throughout the area.

Fairfax and Loudoun County staff have reached an agreement with VDOT on the broad outlines of a financing plan to provide sufficient funds to construct 6 interchanges on Route 28. The plan

calls for state and local debt to be issued simultaneously to refund current state bonds in the amount of \$86 million and provide construction funds of approximately \$120 million.

The only interchange in the Hunter Mill District will be at Frying Pan Road.

### VDOT Six-Year Program

The Six-Year Program outlines the Commonwealth Transportation Board’s (CTB) plan to distribute available funds for public transit, rail, prioritized highway construction projects, ports, and airports in Fiscal Years (FY) 2002-2003. It also shows how the CTB plans to distribute anticipated available funds for the next five fiscal years.

The FY 2003 program allocates a total of \$7.2 billion over the next six fiscal years, \$2.9 billion less than the program approved last year. The tentative program is reduced by 29 percent from the program approved in December 2001. The tentative program reflects realistic revenue projections, updated cost estimates, achievable project schedules, and financial realities, such as the loss of general funds for Virginia’s interstate, primary and urban highway systems.

This Six-Year Program is divided in two phases for high-

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way projects: development and construction.

**Hunter Mill District VDOT primary road projects in development phase:**

- *Fairfax County Parkway*—Widen from 4 to 6 Lanes, Route 123 to Sunrise Valley Drive
- *Route 7*—Widen to 6 Lanes, Loudoun County Line to Reston
- *Cottage St., Vienna*—2 Lanes, Moore Avenue to Cedar Lane

**Hunter Mill District VDOT primary road projects in construction phase:**

- *Route 7*—Install Dual Right Acceleration Lane and Remove Signal for Right Turn Lane At Intersection Route 606
- *Branch Road*—2 Lane, Maple Avenue to Valley Drive
- *Beulah Road*—2 Lane, Maple Avenue to northern town limits
- *Maple Avenue Streetscape*—Park Street to Beulah Road, NE
- *Transit Center*—Reston Town Center at Explorer Drive and Bluemont Way
- *Fairfax County Parkway*—Landscaping, 0.4 Mile North of Baron Cameron Avenue to 0.4 Mile South of Westbound Lane Route 7 (Sugarland)
- *Fairfax County Parkway*—0.1 Mile North of Sunset Hills Road to 0.4 Mile South of Baron Cameron Avenue
- *Fairfax County Parkway*—Construct Interchange, 0.4 Mile South of Baron Cameron Avenue to 0.4 Mile North of Baron Cameron Avenue

For more information on the Six-Year Program and other transportation news see the VDOT web site at: <http://www.virginiadot.org/>.

## **Maple Avenue Enhancement Project**

The Town of Vienna is scheduled to complete Phase II of the Project from Park Street to East Street by Halloween 2002. The improvements include: brick sidewalks, new curb and gutter, brick crosswalks at intersections, increased turning radii at intersections, left turn arrows on traffic signals, improved street lighting on ornamental poles and fixtures, new bus shelters, benches, planters, shrubbery, and trees. The corner of Maple Avenue and Mill Street was acquired by the Town of Vienna for green space.

## **Trails Plan Amendment**

The Countywide Trails Plan was recently amended to bring the plan up to date and to better reflect current trends. The revised Trails Plan is available from the Maps and Publications Sales Desk at the Fairfax County Government Center.

## **Parks**

### **Stratton Woods Park**

Currently, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board has approved the project scope for initial development of Stratton Woods Park, located off of Fox Mill Road in Oak Hill. The features planned for the first phase of construction are: An irrigated 90' diamond ball field, an irrigated 200'x350' rectangular athletic field, three volleyball courts, a disabled-accessible toddler play area, a disabled-accessible picnic area, a 900-foot asphalt trail, and frontage improvements on Fox Mill Road.

The proposed improvements are now in design. Construction, funded by the 1989 Park bond, is scheduled to begin in Fall 2002 and should be completed in Summer 2003. Fairfax County Department of Transportation will contribute \$370,000 towards necessary road frontage improvements.

### **Lahey Lost Valley**

Lahey Lost Valley is a 22-acre parcel located at 9750 Brook-

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## **Election Officers Needed in Fairfax County**

Approximately 2,600 election officers are needed to staff the County's polling places. The Fairfax County Electoral Board encourages qualified citizens to consider volunteering to serve as election officers. These positions pay \$100 for the day.

For more information or to request an application, please contact the Fairfax County Electoral Board at 703-324-4735, or via email at [elect@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:elect@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## **Principal Retirements**

With sadness, we report the retirement of two principals in the Hunter Mill District. Dennis Nelson of Floris Elementary and Carol Bradley of Terraset Elementary retired from their positions at the end of the 2001-2002 school year. The two principals have combined for more than 50 years of service to the children of Fairfax County and for that we owe them our deepest gratitude. Both will be sorely missed by the county and particularly by the Hunter Mill District.

## **Robert Simon Named National Planning Pioneer**

Robert Simon, Jr. and Reston were recently honored by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) 40 years after the groundbreaking of Reston. Reston was named a National Planning Landmark and Simon was named a National Planning Pioneer at the American Planning Association's (APA) National Planning Conference in April.

A reception was held at the Reston Museum on June 6 to recognize Bob Simon and this landmark honor. Tom D'Alessandro of Terrabrook presented the two awards. Later in the summer, a bronze plaque will be installed in Reston to commemorate the honor.

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meadow Drive in Vienna. The land was donated to the Park Authority in 1999 and is currently undergoing the master plan process. It is a historic site designated as a Cultural Resource Park and reflects the architectural and agrarian history and cultural significance of the site and its improvements in Fairfax County during the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Frying Pan Park**

The park is located at 2717 West Ox Road in Herndon, contains 130 acres and lies 1.5 miles south of the Town of Herndon. Frying Pan Park is undergoing its remaster plan process where the Park Authority reexamines the development of the park. The Park Authority is proposing: new stables; a new maintenance building; relocating the entrance and adding new parking areas; a new visitor center and offices would be relocated to in the Chantilly Bible Church building; additional farm outbuildings; and the addition of a trail between Monroe Street and Frying Pan Road.

### **Clarks Crossing Park**

The park is located at the end of Clarks Crossing Road beside the W&OD trail. The park provides two practice soccer fields. Currently, the Park Authority has approved the construction of 35 additional parking spaces to be located adjacent to the W&OD trail. The Park Authority continues to work with neighboring communities to address their concerns prior to construction of the parking facilities.

For more information on park improvements, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parkdevelopment.htm>

## **SALT Council**

Supervisor Hudgins, public safety representatives, and senior citizens signed a proclamation on June 11 to form the first SALT Council (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together). The Hunter Mill District SALT Council is comprised of senior residents of the district and professionals from: the Fairfax Co. Sheriff's Office and Police Department; the Vienna Police Department; the Vienna Town Council; AARP; the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging; Adult Protective Services; Lake Anne and Hunters Woods Fellowship Houses; Reston Association; Reston Community Center; and the Reston/Herndon Senior Center.

## **FCPD Citizens Police Academy**

The Fairfax County Police Department recently piloted a 9-week Citizens Police Academy (CPA). The CPA was designed to give attendees a better understanding of the operation of the Police Department and a greater awareness of officers' daily challenges. The CPA will aid the department in partnering with the community, building trust, and ultimately enhancing police services. The program is scheduled to be completed on June 8, 2002.

## November Referenda

Following a bitter battle in the General Assembly, Northern Virginia has finally been granted the right to hold a referendum on raising the sales tax to pay for transportation improvements. This November, Northern Virginia voters will be given the opportunity to vote to raise the local sales tax one-half cent to pay for capital improvements to transportation. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors officially endorsed the referendum. In the Hunter Mill District, passage of the referendum includes \$350 million funding for the Dulles Corridor transit project and funding for a number of road projects.

### Other Bond Referenda

- Would permit \$900,488,645 for financing the costs of capital projects for state higher education.
- Would permit \$119,040,000 for capital projects at state parks.
- Would permit \$20,000,000 for both land acquisition and development of Fairfax County parkland.
- Would permit \$60,000,000 for improvement and construction of Fairfax County public safety facilities including new communications and emergency operations centers.

## Residential Development Criteria Revisions

By Walter Alcorn,

Chair, Fairfax County Planning Commission Development Criteria Review Committee

Fairfax County is now headlong into a process of revising text in the County's Comprehensive Plan that specifies the criteria for evaluating residential rezoning applications. Since the mid-1970s, Fairfax County has used these residential development criteria to provide guidance on whether a rezoning application should be approved. The criteria have not been comprehensively reviewed since the 1970s and are an important part of bringing the County's development review process up to date. The criteria do not apply to commercial rezonings, or to residential development already zoned (i.e., by-right development).

Last year the Planning Commission established a Development Criteria Review Committee to review and update the current criteria. The Committee developed a "strawman" of a new set of criteria that was the subject of two Outreach sessions held at the Fairfax County Governmental Center on April 6 and April 16, 2002. At these sessions, the public was invited to comment on possible revisions to the criteria before the Planning Commission's committee finished its deliberations and the formal public hearing review process started. The committee revised the draft proposal to incorporate comments and suggestions received from the meetings and other correspondence.

The Planning Commission public hearing was held on June 19, 2002. To get a copy of the latest text of the proposed revisions and a copy of the staff report, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/> and look for the link to "residential development criteria." Recommended changes will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors later this summer for a public hearing and final review and approval later this summer.

## Lake Anne sends Party Animal to D.C.

Lake Anne Elementary School students entered a winning design for the Party Animal contest held by the D.C. Commission for the Arts and Humanities. Pitted against many professional artists in the metropolitan area, the students' design was chosen and the completed "Democratic Donkey" can be seen at Children's Hospital at 111 Michigan Ave., NW D.C. Pictured are art teachers Lana Jernigan (left side), Pauline Daniels, Patti Koreski (right side), and many of the fifth and sixth grade students who painted the donkey. The first and second grade students who helped design the artwork are not pictured.



## HOA Email Addresses

If you have not done so already, please send the email address of your HOA contact to [hntmill@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:hntmill@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## Land Use

For a list of land use applications submitted to the Department of Planning and Zoning for the Hunter Mill District since January 2002, see the Hunter Mill District website at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/landuse/lu2002.html>

## Madison H.S.

### Baseball and Softball

Congratulations to the Madison Warhawks baseball team who completed a 29-0 season by defeating J.R. Tucker High School 2-1 to capture the Virginia AAA Championship. Congratulations also to the Madison softball team for their outstanding season and their Liberty District championship.

## TANF Pass-Through

Virginia recently became the first state to pass-through 100 percent of the state and federal shares of child support to families. In the past, a portion of child support payments to parents receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) would go to the state and federal governments. As a result of the General Assembly's actions in its 2002 session, however, all child support payments now go directly to the custodial parents.

## Reston Charrette

In partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, and the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, the Hunter Mill District sponsored a charrette, a three day intensive workshop designed to elicit community input on the development surrounding the proposed rail stations in Reston. Outside consultants were brought in to synthesize input from participants to create a recommendation based on the community's discussion. From the discussions, the community's expectations for transit oriented development around the Wiehle Ave. and Reston Parkway station areas include:

- optimizing the land use potentials as amended in May 2001
- providing a connection for Reston through pedestrian access to and from the stations
- providing traffic and transportation management
- developing concepts/alternatives for the two stations
- being a reference for considering the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

The consultant's recommendations are available on the Hunter Mill District web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill>. Special thanks to the more than 150 Reston citizens and business leaders who attended and actively participated in the charrette and to the sponsors who made the charrette possible.

## Dulles Corridor Draft Environmental Impact Study

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Dulles Corridor Transit Project is expected to be released to the public in late June with public hearings to follow in July. In Draft form, the DEIS addresses the need to improve transit access and mobility in response to projected growth, traffic congestion, and land-use plans for the Dulles Corridor, including Tysons Corner. The EIS will include alternatives for the project which will (1) be feasible, cost-effective, and beneficial transportation improvements that enhance connections to the existing transit systems, to Washington Dulles International Airport, and to land developments throughout the Dulles Corridor; (2) increase transit bus and Metrorail ridership; and (3) enhance the region's economic vitality and quality of life.

Based on the Draft EIS public and agency comments received, a Locally Preferred Alternative will be selected and described in full detail in the Final EIS. Supervisor Hudgins has appointed a citizens group to review the Draft EIS.

All DEIS hearings will have an Open House at 6:00 p.m. and Public Hearings at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- July 23, 2002—Marshall High School
- July 24, 2002—Langston Hughes Middle School
- July 25, 2002—Ashburn Elementary School
- July 29, 2002—South Lakes High School

**Congratulations,  
Hunter Mill District  
Classes of 2002**

Best Wishes next year. Have  
a safe summer!

**Congratulations  
Eagle Scouts**

Jeffrey Gehring  
Ryan Kasproicz  
Andy Ramish  
Timothy Lundin  
Michael Lowry  
Kenneth Coleman  
David Rines

**Southgate  
Community Center**

On May 20, 2002, the Board of Supervisors voted to approve, in principle, the Draft Memorandum of Agreement with the Reston Association to permit the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority to go forward with planning for the leasing, construction, and operation of a new Southgate Community Center.

The citizens of Reston, Reston Association, and Fairfax County representatives have held six meetings to date at the Southgate Community Center and Dogwood School to determine the programming needs of the community. If you would like to participate and attend future meetings, please call Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services at 703-324-5531.

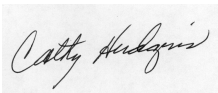
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When revenues are down it is only logical that we reassess the needs and determine where and how much to cut. A 5% cut in the county agencies occurred during the FY 2002 Budget, producing savings for the end of the fiscal year. The FY 2003 Adopted Budget reflects \$35 million in county reductions, including \$7.5 million in human services and \$4.5 in public safety. The revenue generated from the cuts provided \$23 million for the tax cut and an additional \$11 million to schools. The inability, however, to provide meaningful tax relief made the cuts in county and school services hard to bear. For those reasons, I cast the lone vote against the FY 2003 Budget.

While the School Board received a \$14.3 million increase above the seven percent guideline, it was forced to make \$36 million in cuts to its advertised budget. On May 23, 2002, the Fairfax County School Board announced that it adopted a \$1.554 billion budget for FY 2003, having made the requisite cuts. The cuts include \$15 M in administration and \$21 M in instructional services. Most distressing to me is the magnitude of cuts that will affect special needs students.

Fairfax County Public Schools are the county's greatest asset. Every family with or without school age children wants to live where there is a great neighborhood school, because great schools make great communities. The Board of Supervisors has a legal responsibility to fund the schools and I believe Fairfax County schools are the Board's number one priority. However, the School Board must find a clearer way to express the needs of the school community and the Board of Supervisors must find a way to ensure that the transfer to the schools upholds its commitment to maintaining a quality school system.

The FY 2004 budget process has already begun, as has preparation for the 2003 General Assembly. Now is the time for the Board of Supervisors to begin working with the School Board and our state elected officials to ensure a less contentious budget cycle.



Catherine M. Hudgins  
Supervisor, Hunter Mill District

| Recent Citizen Appointees                             |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Organization  | Name                 |
| Planning Commission                                   | Frank de la Fe       |
| Advisory Social Services Board                        | Kathy J. Cutri       |
| Rt. 28 Highway Transportation District Advisory Board | James T. Deuel       |
| Alcohol Safety Action                                 | Judith H. Ratliff    |
| Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee      | William A. Young III |
| Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB)                | Pauline M. Moore     |
| Redevelopment and Housing Authority                   | Lee A. Rau           |

## How to Connect with Your Hunter Mill District Office

- **Call** us at 703-478-0283.  
Our TTY number is 703-736-4460.
- **Fax** us at 703-471-6847.
- **Write** to:  
Supervisor Cathy Hudgins  
N. Co. Governmental Center  
12000 Bowman Towne Drive  
Reston, Virginia 20190-3307
- **Email** us at:  
hntmill@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Watch** "Connecting with  
Supervisor Hudgins" on  
Comcast's Channel 28 on  
Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.  
and Cox Channel 16 Sun-  
days and Fridays at 4 p.m.,  
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- **Meet** Supervisor Hudgins at  
Saturday office hours, 9 a.m.  
to Noon on Saturday, Octo-  
ber 19, 2002 at the Hunter  
Mill District Office.

## Affordable Housing Breakfast

On May 21, Supervisor Hudgins brought together local business leaders and housing advocates to discuss building partnerships and finding solutions to Fairfax County's affordable housing shortage. Joining Supervisor Hudgins at the Hyatt Regency Reston were Lieutenant Governor Tim Kaine, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Kate Hanley, State Senator Janet Howell, Hunter Mill District Planning Commissioner Frank de la Fe, and several members of the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The breakfast was held in partnership with the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development, Fannie Mae, and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce.

Employers in the area have a particular interest in solving this problem as the economic impact of the housing shortage stands to hurt the county's economy and destabilize its workforce. Some of the points mentioned at the meeting were the direct transfer of wealth that occurs when local employees live outside of the county and the transportation nightmare that results from long commutes into Fairfax County. In the year 2000 alone, the Washington area economy lost \$7.78 billion due to non-local workers taking their paychecks home.

Supervisor Hudgins plans to reconvene the group of employers in July to further discuss actions that they can take to address the affordable housing shortage. Local employers are invited to call the Hunter Mill District Office at 703-478-0283 for information on the July meeting.

### Emergency Numbers

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Police/Fire/Ambulance 911 | Power Outage 1-888-667-3000 |
| Rape Crisis Hotline.....  | 703-360-7273                |



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